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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

WELLS

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Examiner:

For: **COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

* * * * *

April 27, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

A1
3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which one or more of the gateways communicate a respective delay time to a control node and the step of selecting one of the gateways is carried out by the control node.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which the packets are Internet Protocol (IP) packets.

A2
6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which the circuit-switched network is an ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) network.